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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 20

BAC

JUNE 30, 1944

HOG PRODUCTION SHOWS SHARP DECLINE

After reaching peak in 1943, hog production is declining sharply. *Spring* pig crop of 1944 estimated 55,925,000 head, which is 24 percent under spring of 1943. Farmers' intentions as to fall farrowings indicate *fall* pig crop of about 32,000,000 head, which would be 33 percent under last fall. A *total* pig crop this year of about 87,925,000 head - spring and fall crops combined - would be 28 percent under 1943, 16 percent under 1942, but larger than any other year on record. The number of hogs over 6 months old, on farms June 1, was 34,500,000, about 5 percent below year ago but more than any other year.

Number of sows farrowing this spring estimated 9,269,000, which was 23 percent under previous spring and nearly a million less than indicated in December reports on breeding intentions. Largest drop between intention reports and actual farrowings occurred in West North Central and Western States. In other words, market and feed conditions have accelerated the reduction, especially in Corn Belt.

Farmers' reports on fall breeding intentions indicate 4,990,000 sows to farrow this fall. This would be a reduction of 2,604,000 or 34 percent under number farrowed in fall 1943 and 27 percent under fall 1942, although would be larger than 10-year average by 316,000 sows or 7 percent.

Average number pigs saved per litter in 1944 spring season was 6.03, compared with 6.10 in spring 1943 and record number of 6.36 in 1942.

LOT OF EGGS ON HAND - PRODUCTION OF CHICKENS DECLINING

Egg prices are down, feed is high, and farmers are reducing their flocks of chickens. Number of young chickens being raised for layers much less than year ago. Flocks being heavily culled. Indications are that laying flocks of the country will be reduced 8 to 10 percent by next January 1, under year previous.

Egg production is slowly declining. In the first 5 months of 1944 it was 7.5 percent above like period of last year; but in May it was only 3 percent above May 1943. With fewer layers coming along egg output will show relative decline through rest of year, by end of year may fall below 1943. With larger stocks in storage, however, civilian supply of eggs probably will not fall below last year.

Buying of dried egg by WFA in recent weeks have run about 5 million pounds weekly. Purchases through June 10 on the 1944 program totaled 173 million pounds. Total production of dried egg in the U. S. - for WFA, military and civilians - was 33 million pounds in month of April; in first 4 months of year was 112 million pounds, against 86 million in like period 1943.

Cold storage stocks of shell eggs on June 1 were 9.7 million cases, a record high, compared with 8.2 million cases a year earlier. Substantial portion of these held by Government. Also on June 1 there was the equivalent of 7.8 million cases of frozen eggs in storage. Combined storage stocks of all eggs amounted to 17.5 million cases, 2.6 million more than year previous and nearly twice the 1933-42 average of 9.7 million cases.

GOOD SUPPLY OF FATS AND OILS AT PRESENT

Country's stock of fats and oils has risen in last year. On April 30, factory and warehouse stocks of fats and oils totaled 2,601 million pounds, 589 million more than year earlier. Cold storage holdings of lard and rendered pork fat totaled 498 million pounds, 349 million over year earlier. These stocks are large but the demand is great also. Large supplies have made it possible to increase civilian food fats, likewise soap fats for civilians. Present easy situation as to these supplies is expected to tighten, however, later in year.

DAIRY OUTPUT ABOUT HOLDING ITS OWN

Milk production during May estimated 11.9 billion pounds, about like May last year but 2 percent under May 1942. Number of cows somewhat larger than year ago but production per cow slightly less. Total milk output January through May, 49.13 billion pounds, against

49.0 billion in like period 1943. Total production this year is expected to run about like last year, around 118 billion pounds.

Creamery butter output in April 130.8 million pounds, about 13 percent under last year's 150.4 million pounds, reflecting slow pastures in Central States. Demand for butter strong; retail sales of butter in Chicago, in 4 weeks ending May 27, were 3 percent over year earlier. Stocks of butter in cold storage May 1 were 70 million pounds, compared with 30 million year earlier.

Milk and butterfat returns to farmers were higher this May than last, slightly

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	MAY 15 1944	JUNE 15 1944	JUNE 15 1944
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.47	1.43	1.50
Corn, bu. dol.	1.15	1.15	1.09
Oats, bu. dol.	.80	.79	.678
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.80	20.16	21.08
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.34	1.25	1.22
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	12.70	12.60	12.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.10	12.00	9.21
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.30	13.20	11.50
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.40	13.20	10.00
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.7	50.2	140.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.13	3.10	2.42
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	24.4	23.8	19.4
Eggs, doz. ct.	27.2	28.1	130.0

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation

higher milk and slightly lower fat prices being supplemented by Government payments. However, feed advanced and the milk-feed price ratio was lower this May than in 1943.

HEAVY CATTLE SLAUGHTER AND WOOL CONSUMPTION

Slaughter of cattle and calves under Federal inspection, January-May, was 23 percent larger than in 1943 but was about normal in relation to number of cattle on farms this year. Cattle slaughter for comparable plants during same period was 15 percent larger than in 1943, while calf slaughter on same basis exceeded last year by 42 percent. If slaughter goes on at this rate, it might reduce cattle numbers slightly by end of year. Goals set for cattlemen recommended a reduction in number from the 82.2 million head on hand at beginning of 1944 to 76.8 million head at beginning of next year. Total beef in cold storage June 1, amounted to 245 million pounds, compared with 90 million pounds a year previous and 70.6 million, the five year June average.

Total stocks of *pork* in cold storage June 1 were 771 million pounds, against 520 million a year previous and 598 the June average. Lard stocks this June 1 were 453 million pounds, compared with 156 million a year previous and 216 the five-year June average.

Consumption of apparel *wool* in first four months of 1944 was at an annual rate of 610 million pounds on scoured basis, only 2 percent smaller than in like period of 1943 (the total consumption for 1943 was 592 million pounds.) Military requirements declined last year and leveled off in early months of 1944. Heavy mill consumption through second half of year depends largely on continuing military demands. Stocks of domestic and foreign apparel wool privately owned by dealers and manufacturers on April 1, 1944 totaled 287 million pounds (grease basis), compared with 258 million one year earlier. In addition, about 450 million pounds were held by CCC and DSC on April 1.

COTTON CONSUMPTION DOWN

Cotton consumption by mills averaged 36,973 bales per working day in May, lowest of any month since November 1940 and 20 percent below peak daily consumption during April 1942; May daily rate was 6 percent below average for 9 months period, August-April. For the season through May 31 total consumption was 8,412,168 bales; if this is projected at same rate through July, would give a consumption this season of about 9,965,000 bales. This would compare with 11,100,082 bales used in 1942-43 and 11,170,106 bales in 1941-42

(reduction of 10 and 11 percent respectively). The low rate of consumption is said to be due largely to labor shortage in the mills. Efforts are being made to meet the situation and increase output of cotton textiles.

GOOD WHEAT PROSPECT — OTHER SMALL GRAINS FAIR

June 1 prospects were for a billion bushel wheat crop. This country has grown a billion bushels only once before, in 1915. Next largest crop was 974 million bushels in 1942. Last year's crop was 836 million bushels. Present expectation of a record crop based upon big yields of both winter and spring wheat. June forecast however, is always subject to hazards arising between then and harvest.

Oats forecasts 1,193,410,000 bushels. This would exceed large 1943 crop by about 50 million bushels or about 4 percent.

Rye forecast 31,608,000 bushels, compared with last year's crop of 30,781,000 bushels. This would be the smallest crop since drought year 1936.

FOOD HANDLING CHARGES RISE SLIGHTLY

Charges for marketing the typical basket of farm food products rose 2 1/2 percent from \$197 in April to \$202 in May. This figure for May includes Government payments to marketing agencies of \$17.

From April to May the retail cost to consumers of the farm food basket increased from \$433 to \$436, the first rise in retail price of those products since last October. Payments to farmers for equivalent produce declined from \$253 in April to \$251 in May. The May level of payments to farmers was the lowest since February 1943.

The farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar spent for these farm products amounted to 58 cents in May, virtually unchanged since last summer.

FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during April, including Government payments, \$1,472 million, compared with \$1,387 million in April 1943. Government payments in April \$68 million, compared with \$65 million in April last year.

The January-April total income so far this year \$6,008 million, which included \$292 million Government payments. Comparable figure for 1943 was \$5,355 million, which included \$336 Government payments.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JUNE 1944
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	193
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	170
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	114
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	163
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 175
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 292
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 412
RATIOS	LONG - TIME JUNE - AVERAGE	JUNE 1944
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	10.9	10.9
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	22.0	23.0
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.10	1.26
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	13.9	12.3
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - MAY 1943	JAN. - MAY 1944
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	49	49.13
Eggs, (Bil.)	28.1	30.2
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	2,304	2,692
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	333	339
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	4,625	6,502

¹May figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. April figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.